

Appl. No. 10/089,330
Atty. Docket No. CM2344M
Amdt. dated September 6, 2005
Customer No. 27752

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Susuki et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Susuki") for reasons stated on page 3 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse, to the extent that the rejections may be applied to the presently amended claims.

Susuki relates to a solid composition containing a surfactant (i.e., the active ingredient), polyvinyl alcohol (i.e., the water soluble material), water (i.e., the plasticizer) and inorganic fillers. Applicants submit that Susuki does not disclose an elastic article containing enzyme as the active ingredient, and Susuki does not disclose an elastic article having a mean particle size from about 50 to about 4000 microns. Therefore, Susuki does not anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Since Susuki does teach or suggest the elastic article containing enzyme as the active ingredient nor the elastic article having the claimed mean particle size, Susuki does not render the presently claimed invention obvious.

Further, Susuki is silent about the process of making the elastic articles, therefore, Susuki does not anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed processes.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 102(b) or 103 over Guerry et al.

Claims 23-27 and 32-46 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by, and in the alternative, under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over, US 4,176,079 to Guerry et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Guerry") for reasons stated on page 4 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse, to the extent that the rejections may be applied to the presently amended claims.

Guerry relates to a film article having an enzyme dispersed in a water soluble film matrix, and the enzyme-containing film article may be included in detergent compositions (col. 2, lines 11-28). The film article of Guerry's is distinguishable from the presently claimed elastic article, which contains an active ingredient dispersed in a matrix to form particles having a mean particle size from about 50 to about 4000

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microns. Since there is no disclosure in Guerry of an active-containing elastic particle, Guerry does not anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Moreover, the specific teachings of Guerry are directed to enzyme-containing, water soluble film articles and the processes such as casting or extruding are conducive to film forming. Thus, Guerry does not teach or suggest the presently claimed active-containing articles having a mean particle size from about 50 to about 4000 microns or process for making such particles. Therefore, Guerry does not render the presently claimed invention obvious.

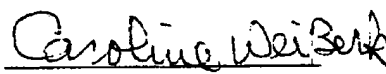
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe the above is a complete response to the Office Action and places Claims 23-27, 34-38 and 41-52 in condition for allowance.

In the event that issues remain prior to allowance of the noted claims, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,


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